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RH - 089CE*

PROGRAM Good Morning, America

STATION WMAL TV  
ABC Network

DATE May 30, 1977 7:00 AM

CITY Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT Commentary on Joint U.S.-Australia Intelligence Effort

DAVID HARTMAN: Jack Anderson in Washington this morning with a story about spies and satellites; they're for real; no movie star business here. It's all for real, and Jack has it.

Good morning, Jack.

JACK ANDERSON: Good morning, David.

The Central Intelligence Agency has now managed to alienate the Australians. They used to be our best friends in the Pacific. But that was before a spy trial brought out some embarrassing information. A young communications worker was accused of slipping secrets to the Soviets. He worked for TRW, an American firm doing business with the CIA. It came out during the trial that the CIA had passed out bribes in Australia to influence votes.

Well, this caused an uproar in Australia. But there's another story which the court tried to seal. The United States and Australia were partners in a spy satellite. It hung over Borneo and transmitted its sightings to Australia. These sightings covered most of China and part of Russia. Well, the United States and Australia were supposed to share the information. But unknown to the Australians, the United States introduced an even more sophisticated satellite system. The first was known by the code name RYOLIGHT (?) and the second, Argus.

But the Australians were told nothing about Argus. The sightings were never shared. This was a serious violation of the agreement between the two countries. Now the Australian authorities have learned about Argus from papers leaked at the trial. As a result, relations between the United States and Australia may never be the same.